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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. to 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) A method for transferring job data in a digital cable network system wherein the digital cable network system includes a sending component and a receiving component which communicate over the network, the method comprising:

determining, at the sending component, a manner of transfer which is selected from a group consisting of all of (i) a referential transfer using a secure pipe, (ii) a referential transfer not using a secure pipe, (iii) a direct transfer using a secure pipe, and (iv) a direct transfer not using a secure pipe,

wherein, in the referential transfer, the sending component uploads the job data to a predetermined location on a secure server, and the sending component sends location information corresponding to the secure server to the receiving component, and the uploaded job data is received by the receiving component from the predetermined location on the secure server, wherein the uploaded job data is received in accordance with a request which includes the location information from the receiving component;

transferring, from the sending component to the receiving component, a message which includes the determination result of the determining step;

uploading the job data from the sending component to a predetermined location on a secure server, responsive to a determination of the determining step that the manner of transfer is (i) a referential transfer using a secure pipe or (ii) a referential transfer not using a secure pipe;

transferring the job data from the sending component to the receiving component via direct communication responsive to a determination of the determining step that the manner of transfer is (iii) a direct transfer using a secure pipe or (iv) a direct transfer not using a secure pipe;

wherein when the determining step determines that the manner of transfer is (i) a referential transfer using a secure pipe or (iii) a direct transfer using a secure pipe, said transferring step and said uploading step control communication by using a secure socket layer protocol; and

wherein the job data uploaded by the uploading step is received by the receiving component in accordance with the request from the receiving component when the manner of transfer is determined (i) or (ii) in which the referential transfer is used.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 29, wherein said uploading step further encrypts the data itself before uploading via a secure socket layer.

31. (Currently Amended) A sending component operating in a cable head end (CHE) which communicates over a network to transfer job data to a receiving component operating in a set top box (STB) in a digital cable network system, comprising:

a determining unit constructed to determine, at the sending component, a manner of transfer which is selected from a group consisting of all of (i) a referential transfer using a secure pipe, (ii) a referential transfer not using a secure pipe, (iii) a direct transfer using a secure pipe, and (iv) a direct transfer not using a secure pipe,

wherein, in the referential transfer, the sending component uploads the job data to a predetermined location on a secure server, and the sending component sends location information corresponding to the secure server to the receiving component, and the uploaded job data is received by the receiving component from the predetermined location on the secure server, wherein the uploaded job data is received in accordance with a request which includes the location information from the receiving component;

a transferring unit constructed to transfer, from the sending component to the receiving component, a message which includes the determination result;

an uploading unit constructed to upload the job data from the sending component to a predetermined location on a secure server, responsive to a determination of the determining unit that the manner of transfer is (i) a referential transfer using a secure pipe or (ii) a referential transfer not using a secure pipe;

transferring unit constructed to transfer the job data from the sending component to the receiving component via direct communication responsive to a

determination of the determining unit that the manner of transfer is (iii) a direct transfer using a secure pipe or (iv) a direct transfer not using a secure pipe;

wherein when the determining unit determines that the manner of transfer is (i) a referential transfer using a secure pipe or (iii) a direct transfer using a secure pipe, said transferring unit and said uploading unit control communication by using a secure socket layer protocol; and

wherein the job data uploaded by the uploading unit is received by the receiving component in accordance with the request from the receiving component when the manner of transfer is determined (i) or (ii) in which the referential transfer is used.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein said uploading unit further encrypts the data itself before uploading via a secure socket layer.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage memory medium having computer-executable process steps stored thereon for transferring job data in a digital cable network system, wherein the digital cable network system includes a sending component and a receiving component which communicate over the network, wherein said process steps comprise:

a determining step to determine, at the sending component, a manner of transfer which is selected from a group consisting of all of (i) a referential transfer using a

secure pipe, (ii) a referential transfer not using a secure pipe, (iii) a direct transfer using a secure pipe, and (iv) a direct transfer not using a secure pipe,

wherein, in the referential transfer, the sending component uploads the job data to a predetermined location on a secure server, and the sending component sends location information corresponding to the secure server to the receiving component, and the uploaded job data is received by the receiving component from the predetermined location on the secure server, wherein the uploaded job data is received in accordance with a request which includes the location information from the receiving component;

a transferring step to transfer, from the sending component to the receiving component, a message which includes the determination result of the determining step;

an uploading step to upload the job data from the sending component to a predetermined location on a secure server, responsive to a determination of the determining step that the manner of transfer is (i) a referential transfer using a secure pipe or (ii) a referential transfer not using a secure pipe; and

a transferring step to transfer the job data from the sending component to the receiving component via direct communication responsive to a determination of the determining step that the manner of transfer is (iii) a direct transfer using a secure pipe or (iv) a direct transfer not using a secure pipe;

wherein when the determining step determines that the manner of transfer is (i) a referential transfer using a secure pipe or (iii) a direct transfer using a secure pipe, said transferring step and said uploading step control communication by using a secure socket layer protocol; and

wherein the job data uploaded by the uploading step is received by the receiving component in accordance with the request from the receiving component when the manner of transfer is determined (i) or (ii) in which the referential transfer is used.

Please add Claims 34 and 35, as follows:

34. (New) A sending component operating in a set top box (STB) which communicates over a network to transfer job data to a receiving component operating in a cable head end (CHE) in a digital cable network system, comprising:

a determining unit constructed to determine, at the sending component, a manner of transfer which is selected from a group consisting of all of (i) a referential transfer using a secure pipe, (ii) a referential transfer not using a secure pipe, (iii) a direct transfer using a secure pipe, and (iv) a direct transfer not using a secure pipe,

wherein, in the referential transfer, the sending component uploads the job data to a predetermined location on a secure server, and the sending component sends location information corresponding to the secure server to the receiving component, and the uploaded job data is received by the receiving component from the predetermined location on the secure server, wherein the uploaded job data is received in accordance with a request which includes the location information from the receiving component;

a transferring unit constructed to transfer, from the sending component to the receiving component, a message which includes the determination result;

an uploading unit constructed to upload the job data from the sending component to a predetermined location on a secure server, responsive to a determination of the determining unit that the manner of transfer is (i) a referential transfer using a secure pipe or (ii) a referential transfer not using a secure pipe;

transferring unit constructed to transfer the job data from the sending component to the receiving component via direct communication responsive to a determination of the determining unit that the manner of transfer is (iii) a direct transfer using a secure pipe or (iv) a direct transfer not using a secure pipe;

wherein when the determining unit determines that the manner of transfer is (i) a referential transfer using a secure pipe or (iii) a direct transfer using a secure pipe, said transferring unit and said uploading unit control communication by using a secure socket layer protocol; and

wherein the job data uploaded by the uploading unit is received by the receiving component in accordance with the request from the receiving component when the manner of transfer is determined (i) or (ii) in which the referential transfer is used.

35. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 34, wherein said uploading unit further encrypts the data itself before uploading via a secure socket layer.